

PUBLIC NOTICE

**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Public Notice/Application No.:	200200666-JCM
Comment Period:	23 June 2003 through 23 July 2003
Project Manager:	Jack Malone (805) 585-2146 john.c.malone@usace.army.mil

Applicant

Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans
and Nourishment (BEACON)
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 201
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Contact

Richard Parsons
2271 Los Encinos Road
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 649-9759

Location

The proposed project is located in and adjacent to the Pacific Ocean at Goleta Beach in the City and County of Santa Barbara, California.

Activity

The proposed activity is the nourishment of an approximately 2000-foot length of Goleta Beach to restore shoreline lost to erosion and to provide protection for Goleta Beach County Park. For more information see page 3 of this notice.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed work, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued or denied under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344). Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
Regulatory Branch - Ventura Field Office
ATTN: CESPL-CO-R-200200666-JCM
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110
Ventura, California 93001

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: john.c.malone@usace.army.mil

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

Water Quality- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB). Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance. The applicant has applied for water quality certification and the CRWQCB has produced a draft, technically-conditioned certification for the project.

Coastal Zone Management- The applicant has applied for a coastal development permit from the California Coastal Commission. The District Engineer hereby requests the California Coastal Commission's determination regarding federal consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Cultural Resources- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. Surveys of the Goleta Beach shoreline site and offshore excavation site via remote sensing equipment and surveys completed by SCUBA divers revealed no cultural resources in the proposed project area. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

Endangered Species- Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity may affect the federally listed threatened western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*). The proposed project is not located in designated critical habitat for the western snowy plover. Therefore, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be conducted prior to any permit decision.

Essential Fish Habitat- This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would temporarily impact approximately 0.09 acre of subtidal EFH and permanently impact approximately 15.5 acres of sandy intertidal habitat utilized by various life stages of species contained in the Coastal Pelagics Fishery Management Plan and the Pacific Groundfish Management Plan. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in California waters. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Public Hearing- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) proposes to nourish an approximately 2000-foot length of Goleta Beach with approximately 100,000 to 150,000 cubic yards of sand dredged from the Santa Barbara Harbor area, transported via barge to a temporary mooring immediately offshore of Goleta Beach, and piped onshore via a submerged pipeline (Figure 1). The nourishment work would entail the use of a tender tug, two dump scows or a hopper dredge, a submerged pipeline leading through the surf zone onto the beach, and one to two bulldozers to spread the sand over the beach and maintain the discharge pipe.

Additional Project Information

Goleta Beach has experienced substantial erosion over the past twenty years, with the result that the area of beach available for recreational use has been greatly diminished, the adjacent Goleta Beach County Park is threatened by wave action during winter storms, and it has become necessary to construct temporary winter sand dikes to protect the park. To restore the lost recreational area and to protect the park during winter storms, BEACON proposes to nourish the beach with sand dredged as part of the City of Santa Barbara's existing maintenance dredging operations. This proposed nourishment project would offer a more long-term solution to the erosion problem than the construction of temporary winter dikes on the beach.

The proposed beach nourishment is to be carried out during the fall of 2003, prior to the period of highest wave activity during the winter storm season, but could possibly be delayed until winter, spring, or fall of 2004. The new sand would be added to the back portion of the beach from the foot of the existing bluff to an elevation of approximately 12 feet Mean Lowest Low Water (MLLW) as shown in Figure 2. The nourishment berm would be graded level and extend seaward for a distance of 185 feet at which point it would be graded at a slope of 10:1 (ten horizontal to one vertical) and extend an additional 200 feet to seaward. The entire nourishment berm would extend alongshore for a distance of approximately 2000 feet from immediately west of the Goleta Beach Pier to the western end of the County Park (Figure 3). The total area to be covered by the proposed nourishment berm is approximately 15.5 acres of beach face below the mean high tide line. It is expected that between 11 and 16 days of pumping will be required to place 100,000 to 150,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach, excluding mobilization, demobilization and downtime.

The sand used to construct the nourishment berm is proposed to be obtained via excavation by a clamshell dredge or small hopper dredge from a sandy shoal borrow site bounded by Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara Harbor, West Beach, and the northern limit of the Harbor's Federal channel. Sediments in the proposed borrow area are composed of over 90% sand and less than 3% organic material and were determined

by the Corps and EPA to be generally physically and chemically suitable for beach nourishment. Sand would be removed from the ocean floor to a depth of approximately five feet within the proposed borrow site and placed into dump scows for transport to Goleta Beach. The scows, or hopper dredge if used, would then be towed by a tug to a temporary mooring established immediately offshore of Goleta Beach. Once moored, the sand would be pumped as slurry through a submerged pipeline placed along the ocean floor to the beach, where it would emerge approximately 2,000 feet west of the Goleta Pier (Figure 1). The pipe would then extend from the western end of the beach to immediately east of the pier, discharging sand directly onto the beach. As the beach fill progressed, additional lengths of pipe would be added to distribute the sand evenly.

During placement of the proposed nourishment berm, one or two bulldozers would be used to spread the sand over the beach, finish grade the berm, and maintain the discharge pipe. Sand bridges would be constructed at various points along the beach as required to provide temporary access over the pipeline during berm construction. Once approximately 100,000 to 150,000 cubic yards of sand has been pumped onto the beach, the contractor will seal both ends of the submerged pipeline, inject air into the line, and raise it to the surface where a tender tug would then pull the seaward end offshore for retrieval. Before the proposed project is completed, all discharge pipelines would be removed from the beach and the berm would be graded to finish specifications.

Proposed Special Conditions

1. In the event that berm construction will occur during the seasonally predicted run period and egg incubation period for California grunion as identified by the California Department of Fish and Game, the permittee shall ensure that an approved biological monitor is present at the project site each night, for the entire night, from one night before the beginning of each seasonally predicted grunion run until one night after the end of each run to monitor the presence of any grunion at the site. If any adult grunion are present on the project site beach, no construction activities shall be allowed until after the next predicted grunion run in which no adult grunion have been observed on the project site unless otherwise approved by the Corps. The permittee shall immediately notify the Corps after each run during the construction period whether adult grunion were observed.

The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

For additional information please call Dr. Jack Malone of my staff at (805) 585-2146. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.

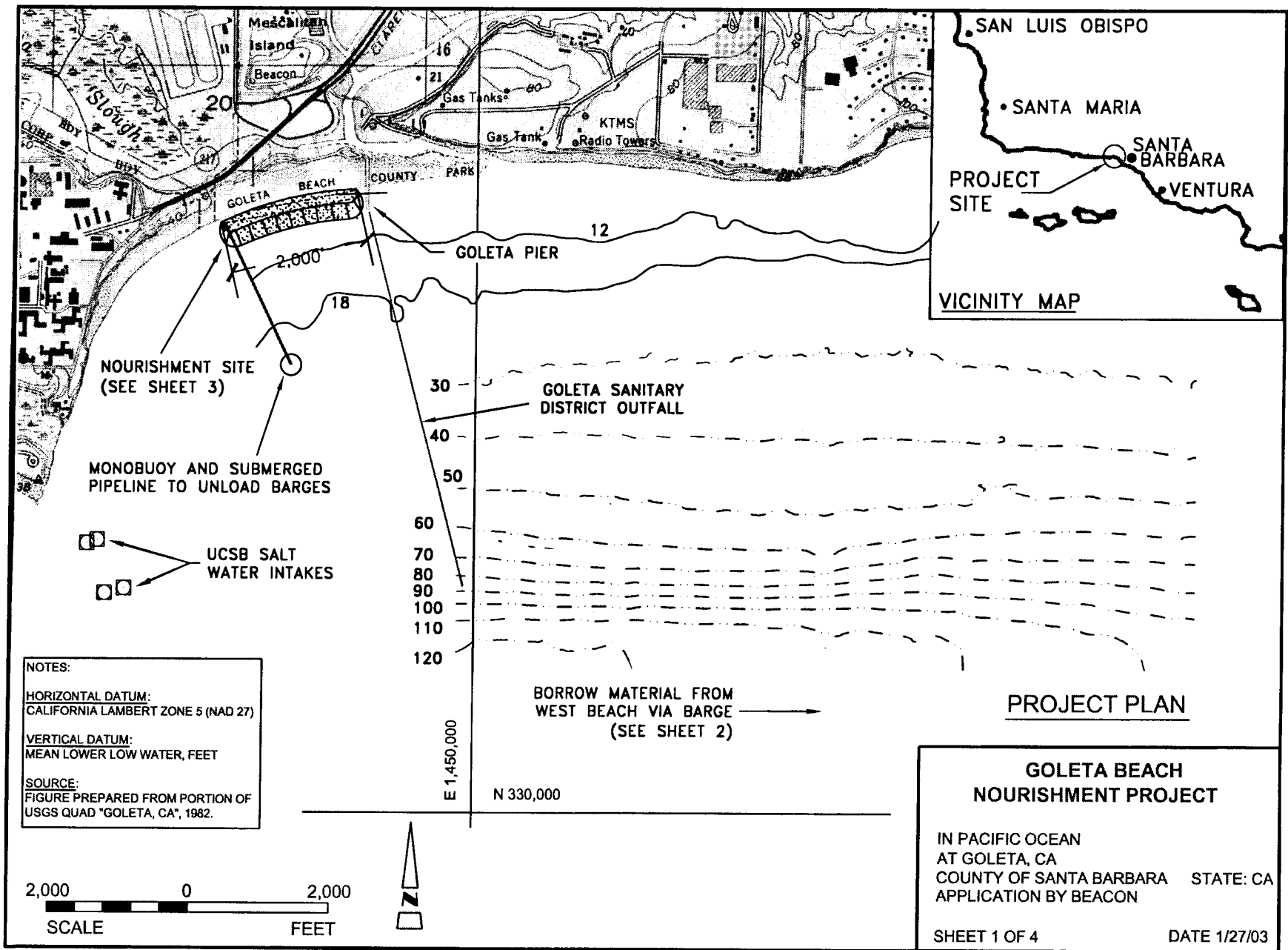


Figure 1

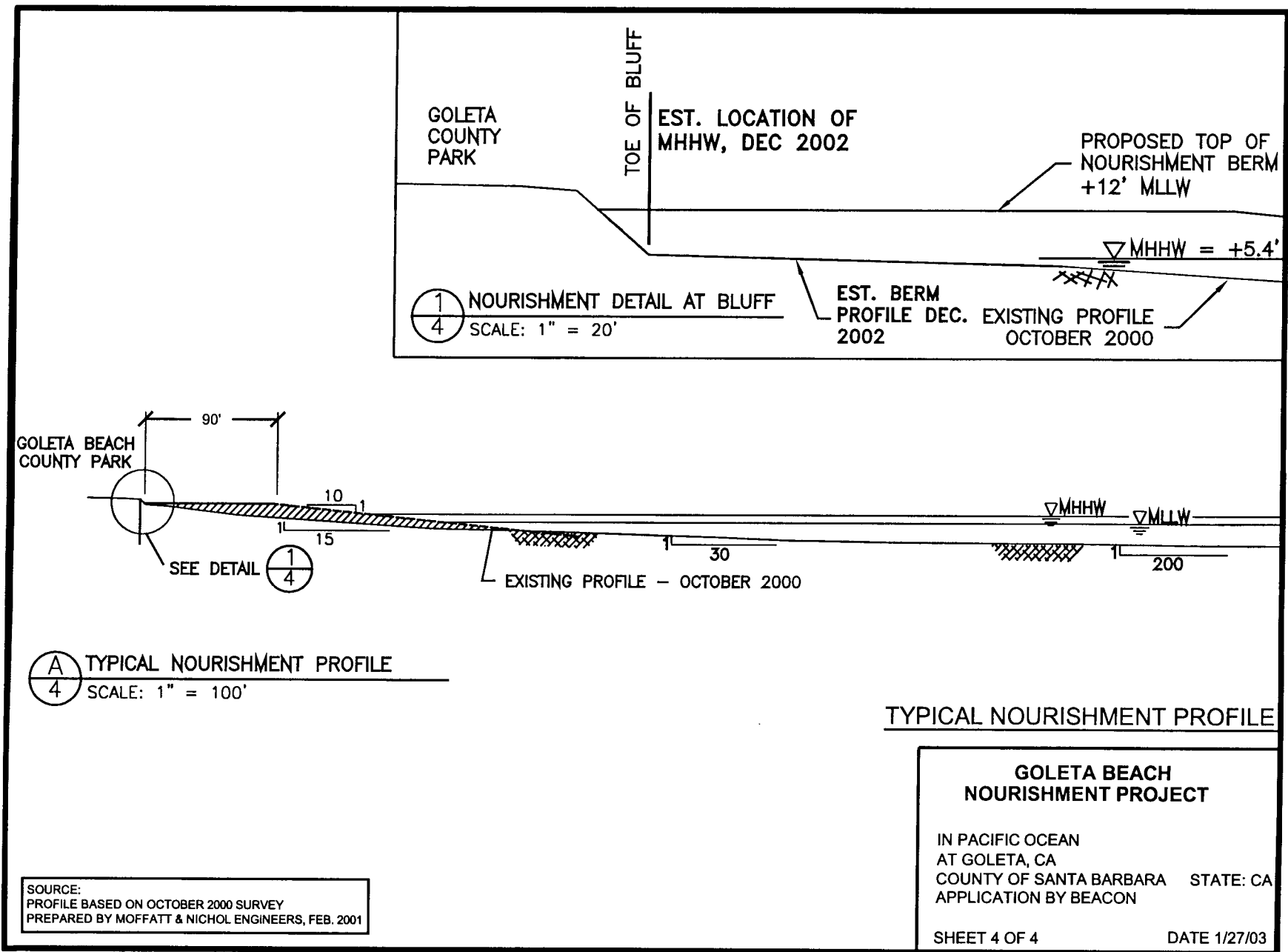


Figure 2

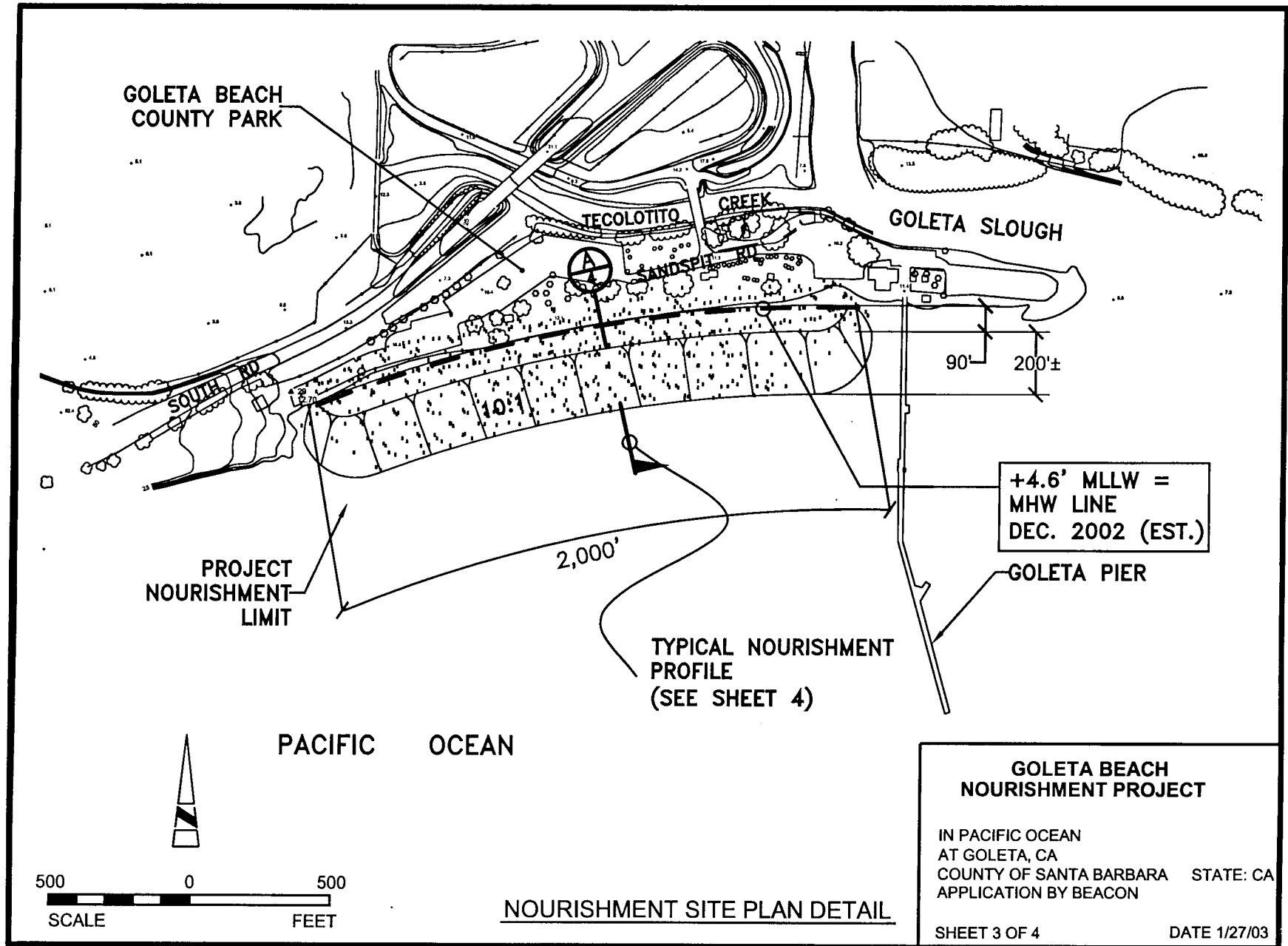


Figure 3